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The MISSING LINK

By C. LeBARON GOELLER

THE World Council of Churches which met in the Netherlands in September 1948 adopted the following resolution as reported in the New York Times: "The Christian Churches should reject the ideologies of both communism and laissez-faire capitalism and should seek to draw men away from the false assumption that these extremes are the only alternatives." But what is the happy medium between these extremes? It is the ¶Single-Tax system expounded by Henry George. (See Note).

Associated Press reports quote the Assembly as saying, "The Church should make clear that there are conflicts between Christianity and capitalism." But 'capitalism' is a word coined by socialism and it misleads the church people. 'Monopolism' is a better word, for it is monopoly of Mother Earth (causing misappropriation of land-rent) that is the PRIME cause of social unrest exhibited in both socialism and communism. What is the answer to Land Monopoly? The ¶Single-Taxism of Henry George.

A Newspaper headline says, "American Protestants Meet:- Problem of Churches Failure to Be Attacked." Why have the Churches failed to measure up to the present crisis? Because they have failed to come abreast of scientific thought on the subject. For in 1879 the problem now facing the Churches and the world was solved by Henry George in his great book *Progress and Poverty*. It is because world thought is seven decades behind the times that we have the threat of world socialism and communism; the first brings regimentation with loss of freedom; the second legalized robbery and loss of all liberty, with the eventual destruction of civilized society and the reversion of mankind to barbarism.

In the final analysis present world unrest can be stated in one word—WAGES. If wages tended upward instead of downward there would be no strikes. No one would then talk about "socialization of basic industries", etc., etc. And no one would even think of advocating communism with its leveling-down instead of raising-up according to ability. Communism is merely an outcome of puzzled minds incapable of consecutive thought. Of such sick doctors of a sick society we would be forced to say,

"The operation was successful but the patient died."
What is the Final answer—remedy, the missing link? The
¶Single-Tax of Henry George.

NOTE—¶Single-Tax has a large connotation. In the first years of the movement it meant the cure for involuntary poverty, hard times, business depressions, high cost of living, unemployment, the abolition of all taxes on labor and the products of labor. This "Anti-Poverty" spirit gave the Georgeism of the first decade an almost religious fervor. The theme was to, institute Justice in the distribution of wealth [rent, wages and interest] and thus the evils which flow from low wages, poverty and actual want would largely disappear. Government would be simplified. All taxes but one would be abolished. The lone tax would be a tax on monopoly, upon *land-rent* or land-values.

Poverty! Want! " . . . It is Justice herself that demands of us to right this wrong, Justice that will not be denied . . . Though it may take the language of prayer, it is blasphemy that attributes to the inscrutable decree of Providence the suffering and brutishness that come of poverty. It is not the Almighty, but we who are responsible for the vice and misery that fester within our civilization."

"Liberty means Justice, and Justice is the natural law. Our primary social adjustment [land laws] is a denial of Justice. Where Liberty rises, there virtue grows. . . Only in broken gleams and partial light has the sun of Liberty yet beamed among men, but all progress hath she called forth . . . As Liberty grew, so grew art, wealth, power, knowledge, refinement . . . Shall we not trust her? . . . Words fail the thought! It is the Golden Age of which poets have sung and high-raised seers have told in metaphor! It is the glorious vision which has always haunted man with gleams of fitful splendor. It is what he saw whose eyes at Patmos were closed in a trance. It is the culmination of Christianity—the City of God on earth, with its walls of jasper and gates of pearl! It is the reign of the Prince of Peace!" (See *Progress and Poverty*, last chapter of Book X).

Rev. Edward McGlynn spoke as follows at the funeral of Henry George: "He was not merely a philosopher and a sage; he was a seer, a forerunner, a prophet; a teacher sent from God. And we can say of him as the Scriptures say: 'There was a man sent of God whose name was John.' And I believe that I mock not those sacred Scriptures when I say: 'There was a man sent of God whose name was Henry George.'"

These are some of the things which surge through the mind when we speak of ¶Single-Tax. However, without the hyphen, the term usually means the taxation-of-land-values as a tax reform. This is †single tax—limited.—C. LeB. G.